

*SophiaEuropa International Conference at WIT*  
*Culture, Technology & Religion in shaping Europe*

**Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2008**

**11am Registration**

**1pm Lunch**

**2.00 – 3.00 Plenary 1: Professor Tom Inglis, Sociologist**  
*The Search for Meaning: Between Science and Religion*

**3.00 – 3.30 Coffee/Tea Break**

**3.15 – 4.15 Session 1 Papers**  
**Jonathon Culleton (WIT): *'Truth' and the Allure of Certainty: Scientific and Religious Fundamentalisms***  
**Colette Colfer (WIT): *Islam in Ireland: Assimilation and Adaptation***

**4.30 – 6pm Plenary 2: Dr. Gary Mc Darby, Biomedical Research Scientist**  
*Technology enhanced evolution in the absence of a loving God*

**6.30 - 7pm Mayor's Reception in City Hall**

**7.30 pm Dinner**

**Post-prandial walking tour of Waterford (optional)**

## **Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May**

### **9.30 -10.30 Session 2 Papers**

**Patricia Rehm (Mainz): *Beware of the Machine! Pastor Herder's view on the 18<sup>th</sup> century***

**Christine O'Dowd-Smyth (WIT): *Towards a new "Civilising Role" of Religion in France: Birthplace of the Enlightenment and defender of the Secular Post-modern***

**Fiona Dowling (WIT): *The Making of Tomorrow - The invisible influences of faith on fabric patterns in 19th century Southern Ireland.***

### **10.30 – 11 Coffee/Tea Break**

### **11 - 12.00 Session 3 Papers**

**Amanda Hayes (WIT): *Bio-Rights: Sword or Shield? The Relationship between Law and Bioethics in a Modern European Technological Age***

**Thomas Moellenbeck (Paderborn): *The cardinal fallacy – Catholic theology trapped by design?***

### **12.15 – 1.15 Session 4 Papers**

**Cormac O'Raifeartaigh (WIT): *The Big Bang and the Mind of God: Science, Religion and the Origin of the Universe***

**Ramon Cisneros-Ruelas and Boguslawa Lewandowska (Berkeley/Warsaw): *Paradigms in Science – With or Without Metaphysical Presuppositions***

### **1.15 – 2.00 Lunch**

### **2.00 – 6.00 Afternoon South Eastern Mystery Tour!**

### **7.00 pm Conference Dinner**

**9.00**

**Céili: Irish Dancing for Everyone!**

## **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

### **9.30 – 11.00 Session Papers**

**Fergus Hogan (WIT): *Sin, guilt and forgiveness: a consideration of men's stories of abortion in post institutional Catholic Ireland***

**Brenda Murphy (Malta): *Reading the Media, Writing Identities: Generating gendered identities and strategies for change***

**Inna Semetsky (Newcastle, Aus): *The Images of Wisdom: healing the culture-nature divide***

### **11.00 – 11.30 Coffee/Tea Break**

### **11.30 – 12.30 Plenary 3: Professor Eamonn Conway, Theologian**

***The distinctive responsibilities of theology towards humanity in a technological culture***

### **12.30 – 1.00 Closing of Conference**

**Dr Michael Howlett, Conference Chair**

### **1pm Final Conference Lunch**

### **2.30 – 4.30 Area 3 Business Meeting: Future Planning**